



Promoting recycling, watershed education and environmental stewardship for Nevada

A Publication for School and Community educators

NOTICE

Pine Middle School Shares the Bounty

Pine Middle School's Garden Club and Science Department was awarded \$5,000 by the Dolan Auto Group to support the school's "Share the Bounty" Project. The school garden at Pine Middle School produced a bounty of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, squash and more. During the growing season over twenty families of Pine Middle School students took home nutritious produce.

They also donated over 300 pounds of garden fresh vegetables to benefit two community groups. St. Vincent's Dining Room which feeds homeless people living in downtown Reno, received much of the produce.

Senior citizens served by the DAYBREAK Program (Senior Day Care) at the Washoe County Senior Center received bags of vegetables to take home. Students also included little notes to let the elders know they cared.

The money the Garden Club and Science Department received will be used to purchase tools and materials to build bee boxes and bat houses, gloves and seeds, stand-up work benches for use in the garden and science kits for classrooms to help science teachers at Pine Middle School more effectively implement the Next Generation Science Standards lessons; resources well-invested to create meaningful learning experiences.



Pine Patriots ROCK! Go green thumbs!



Benefits of School Gardens

For Students:

- Educational benefits
- Enviro-Stewardship and connection with nature
- Life and Nutrition
- School Pride

For Teachers, Schools and Communities:

- Active learning and student engagement
- Student attention and class management
- Connection to the community

What's
Inside

Pine MS Shares the Bounty	1	School Gardens—Urban Roots	3	We Are the Stewards	6
Benefits of School Gardens	1	Carton 2 Garden Contest	4	Learning Opportunities	7
Reed HS Plastic Solutions	2	Career Corner	4	Contacts	8
Litterati Impact	2	Wendell McCurry WQ Award	5		

REED HIGH SCHOOL PLASTIC POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Reed High School's Environmental Club has created an educational campaign to encourage students to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic. Components of this school-wide effort include:

- Raise awareness about reusable products such as metal straws, Ziploc bags and drinkware by displaying sample products and selling reusable water bottles.
- A "meme hashtag challenge" where students create "meme" posters to encourage others to share hash-tagged photos of themselves using reusable items on social media.

The campaign runs February through April. The club's overall goals are to raise awareness and to raise additional resources to install a second filtered hydration station on campus to support the use of reusable water bottles. The positive impact to the community is the reduction of plastics in the landfill, waterways and as unsightly litter.

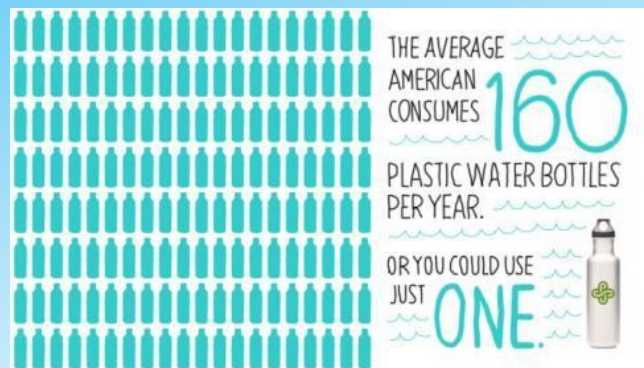


Reed High School students are charged up to kick-off their campaign to reduce Plastic Pollution.

Students will collect data on the number of water bottles in recycling bins before and after the campaign in order to determine the efficacy of the campaign. Enviro Club students have been invited to attend Monterey Bay Aquarium's Ocean Plastic Pollution Summit, April 30—May 1.

Each year over 50 billion plastic bottles of drinking water are purchased in the United States. This production requires the energy equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil, enough to fuel more than one million vehicles for a year, and emits more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide. Transporting bottled water hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles also discharges carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change.

The cost of all this bottled water is high, economically and environmentally. Tap water costs about \$0.002 per gallon compared to the \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon for bottled water.



Source: <http://www2.pacinst.org/publication/bottled-water-and-energy>

Litterati Impact



Trash is a form of water pollution we all recognize. Plastic bags and bottles, fast food wrappers, even shopping carts find their way into local streams and ditches.

Pick up and document trash pollution in your community using iTunes app "Litterati". By combining technology, social awareness and art, [Litterati](#) tackles trash pollution one piece of litter at a time. #litterati, that's the hashtag. See a piece of litter, post a picture of it on Instagram, and then throw the trash away. Simple! [Litterati](#) will use this to work with companies and organizations to find environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions to reduce trash.

School Gardens Grow Healthy Minds, Bodies & Communities

Does your school have a garden? If not, why not start planning and get planting! There are many benefits to children who have access to school gardens. Gardening gives children learning experiences that begin in the garden and stay with them the rest of their lives — resulting in improved academics, better eating habits, greater environmental stewardship and community involvement.

School gardens can provide an outlet for physical exercise and help to develop a respect for nature. Many young people don't know where their food comes from. Through gardening, kids can gain a better appreciation for how food is produced, and establish a more positive connection with food sources and increase interest in eating nutritious foods.

Gardening provides children with a hands-on bridge between abstract academic concepts and real life experiences. Children who participate in garden-based education have shown an increase in knowledge retention, better application of knowledge across the curriculum and increased engagement in school activities. They look forward to taking care of their plants, and learn to work cooperatively.

There are many resources to help you get started on your garden. [Urban Roots](http://UrbanRoots.org) in Reno has a School Garden program with lesson plans to help you grow a beautiful garden. The Washoe County School District also has a handbook you can download to help your school establish a garden.

[Download the WCSD School Garden Handbook.](#)

KidsGardening.org is a provider of grants and materials for educators and families to use gardening as a resource for learning. Their mission is to empower every generation to lead healthier lives, build stronger communities and encourage environmental stewardship through educational garden programs.

Photos courtesy of

urban  roots

Urban Roots AmeriCorp members are ready to help you with your school garden needs.



Students getting their hands dirty at Urban Roots farm.



Student getting creative and silly with a spring sprig!

Carton 2 Garden Contest



Evergreen Packaging and KidsGardening.org present their second annual national Carton 2 Garden Contest. Public and private schools across the country are invited to compete for prize packages ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 by repurposing empty milk and juice cartons in their school gardens. They are on the lookout for the most unique and sustainable uses for repurposed milk and juice cartons that connect back to the garden. Ten winners, 5 from middle/high schools and 5 from elementary schools, will receive award packages valued at \$1,000 each.

Along with these lucky 10 recipients, four additional winners will also be chosen. Three entrants will be selected for exemplary demonstration in the following specialty areas: STEM, sustainability, and community involvement. These three winners will receive a prize valued at \$2,500 each. And one grand prize winner will be selected to receive a prize valued at \$5,000. To be eligible for the specialty area prizes and grand prize, in addition to the standard entry form and required photos, submissions must also include a video link telling the story of the project in its entirety from planning the carton drive to the finished project.

You'll never look at your milk cartons the same again!

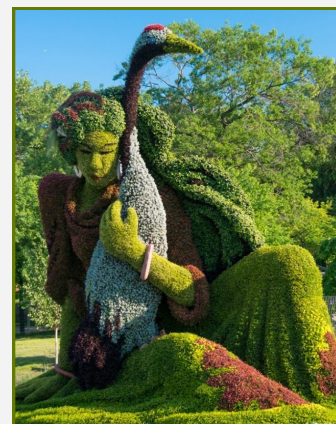
Career Corner

- connecting the importance of school to exciting careers for the future!

Does working with soil and growing fruits, vegetables or ornamental plants interest you? Then you may want to further your education in Horticulture.

Horticulture is the science and art involved in the cultivation, propagation, processing and marketing of flowers, turf, vegetables, fruits, nuts and ornamental plants. Horticulture provides habitat and food for living organisms, adds beauty to our homes and creates a beautiful landscape that also involves soil and turf management as well as erosion prevention which impact air and water quality.

Typically, a horticulturist has a degree in Horticulture or closely related field such as Plant Physiology, Botany or Agronomy. Horticulturists work in public and private industry, government and educational institutions and employ people with a broad range of interests. Your work environment may involve a mix of physical work, technical knowledge and creativity, along with a lot of work outdoors.



Living Sculpture at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

Great Basin Outdoor School receives Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award



The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection was honored to present the 2015 Wendell McCurry Award to the Great Basin Outdoor School (GBOS) in recognition of its exceptional outdoor environmental education programs.

Founded in 1996 by Ms. Sue Jacox, GBOS's motto is "Hands on Discovery in the Outdoor Classroom" by instilling a sense of environmental stewardship toward preserving and protecting all natural resources, with an emphasis on water quality and watershed health. Based on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, GBOS provides field experiences and service learning projects that allow students to explore the environment and study the ecology that connects Lake Tahoe with the Truckee and Carson River communities.

Being outdoors is exhilarating for youth and adults, yet most of us get far too little time outdoors. In the outdoor school setting students get excited about learning and catch the enthusiasm and sense of environmental stewardship modeled by GBOS naturalists.

GBOS has grown from offering ten one-day excursions for low-income schools in 1996 to providing many four-day field study programs during spring and fall and a full outdoor classroom and snowshoe experience in winter. Since its inception, thousands of students and teachers have engaged in GBOS's dynamic education and training programs.



Sue Jacox with Avalanche (GBOS Naturalist) working with students and the Tahoe Basin watershed model.

"Ms. Jacox's long-term leadership has been critical in bringing environmental education to young people, providing a basic understanding of the water quality issues facing Lake Tahoe and northern Nevada, and teaching students how they may take simple actions to improve and protect water quality," said Dave Emme, Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

NDEP is honored to recognize Sue Jacox and GBOS Naturalists with the Wendell McCurry Award. Congratulations Great Basin Outdoor School on all your success!

The Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award was established in 1999 to honor Wendell McCurry and to memorialize his long-term commitment to water quality protection and improvement. This Award is presented annually to recognize individuals, agencies and other organizations for outstanding water quality protection efforts. To find out more about Wendell McCurry was and the past recipients of this notable award, visit http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/wendll_master.htm.

We Are the Stewards

Compiled from interview with Sue Jacox

This Stewardship Spotlight features individuals and organizations that strive to make a difference. This issue features Sue Jacox, founding member and Board President of Great Basin Outdoor School (GBOS).

Great Basin Outdoor School was founded in 1996 by Sue Jacox, a retired Washoe County educator, and is a vital force in water quality education in Northern Nevada. Based on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, GBOS is uniquely situated to provide engaging outdoor learning experiences that demonstrate to students and teachers the roles they play in their watershed, and the importance of protecting water quality.

Volunteering for GBOS keeps me busy! Our programs immerse students in day trips and multi-day overnight ecology camps in spectacular natural settings on Nevada's shoreline of Lake Tahoe and other local sites such as Galena Creek and the Truckee River. Students hike, snowshoe, learn local ecology with hands-on standards-based activities, and volunteer on projects to help keep Tahoe blue. I facilitate Project WET workshops for teachers each summer and provide leadership training and experience for young adults. In between our fall, winter, and spring program seasons, I focus on community outreach and seek support to include children in need.

My stewardship practices include the transition to a xeriscape-yard. After our well and others in our neighborhood failed due to county well extraction beyond the recharge rate, I helped raise community awareness about groundwater and helped affect changes in local policy. Nevada is our driest state, and we need to recognize that we live in a desert and respect water as the precious resource that it is.

It's important to get kids thinking about water at a young age. Habits and values start forming early. Children are proud to feel informed and responsible, and participation in stewardship projects with GBOS gives them an empowering sense of esteem.

If I could advance one thing it would be for more sustainable use practices and policies appropriate for our Nevada desert. Let the world around us perform how it naturally functions. We all need to learn more about basic water issues and best practices. This is the key to environmental stewardship.



Sue Jacox, "Our Sierra snowpack is our white gold."

From an Environmental Educator's viewpoint, I want children to have the skills and the will to make positive choices and to recognize that every choice and every action can make a difference. I want them to be stimulated by lifelong learning and nurtured by a sense of connection to the natural world.

One of my biggest goals when doing educational outreach is for children to have the experiences I've had and cherish. Every day I want them to look at the mountains and the sky and feel inspired and excited. I want them to love Nevada and the earth and to feel a part of this community.

During their GBOS experience, students really enjoy learning and contributing and work very willingly (for a while!) on stewardship projects. We have them work on drainage and catchment projects at Camp Galilee. They dig, lay rocks, spread mulch, and plant. The environment has so much to teach us. Let us learn with humility, gratitude, and respect. — Sue Jacox

If you are interested in learning more about GBOS's outreach, feel welcome to contact Sue Jacox, suejacox@nvcbell.net, 775-859-1890, www.greatbasin-os.org

Exciting Opportunities You don't want to miss!

Earth Day Events & More . . .

NORTHERN NEVADA

April 23 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Paiute Shoshone Tribe - Earth Day at Oats Park in Fallon

April 24 11 a.m.—6 p.m. Earth Day Celebration at Idlewild Park in Reno

May 13 9 a.m.—12 p.m. Lower Truckee River Snapshot Day

May 14 Middle Truckee River, North Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe Snapshot Day

Learn more at tahoetruckeesnapshotday.org



April 16 9 a.m.—2 p.m. E-Waste Recycling Event - 6100 Neil Road, Reno
Washoe County residents! (Northwest area of NV Energy Complex)

[New2U Computers](http://New2UComputers.com) and NV Energy will be accepting eWaste: computers, cords, LCD monitors, small electronics, printers and other miscellaneous electronic devices.

NO: CRT TVs, CRT Monitors, Refrigerators, Car Parts, Batteries, Kitchen Appliances, Air Conditioners or Medical Equipment.



Volunteers are needed (8-3:00 p.m.) to assist with unloading and sorting eWaste. Event organizers need over 120 volunteers throughout the day. Please contact Gavin Reynolds (x221) or Jay Wilson (x222) at 775-329-1126.



April 21 & 22 CAPITAL CITY FARM DAYS (8:45—2 p.m.) Carson City Fairgrounds & Fuji Park Exhibit Hall
Make plans for your class to attend this informative and interactive event!

Geared for K–5th grade students. Plan to tour for about two hours.

Classes may arrive at 8:45 a.m. and are welcome to bring lunches to eat in the park.

Presenters explain where and how we get our food and clothing. Interactive stations engage older students about the challenges facing farmers today; how agriculture affects our environment; and how our environment affects agriculture. Contact Sandy Wallin 775-887-2252.



Cows, Pigs, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Bees and Native Pollinators, Composting Plants, Veggies and much more.

SOUTHERN NEVADA

**Apr. 23
10a-5p
FREE EVENT**

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Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival

April 29—May 7

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Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

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Follow Nevada Recycles to learn about
- Creative ways to reuse, reduce, and recycle
- Local and global waste reduction efforts and issues



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The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) provides resources and funding for numerous educational and outreach programs and efforts throughout Nevada. NDEP sponsors and endorses Project WET and Recycling programs and curriculum through two Bureaus, Water Quality Planning and Waste Management.

Patricia Moen (pmoen@dcnr.nv.gov)
Northern Nevada Recycling Coordinator
Rachel Lewison (rlewison@dcnr.nv.gov)
Southern Nevada Recycling Coordinator
Waste Management Recycling Hotline
p: 1-800-597-5865



Mary Kay Wagner (mkwagner@ndep.nv.gov)
Environmental Scientist / Project WET Coordinator

Bureau of Water Quality Planning
p: 775-687-9454
www.ndep.nv.gov/edu



For information on **Discover a Watershed: the Colorado River** and **PWET Workshops** in Clark County contact: Heather Whitesides, Aquatic Invasive Species Education Specialist, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 702-293-8659 heather_whitesides@nps.gov